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## GENERAL NOTES.

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It is with great regret that we record the death of Professor LUIS G. LEON on April 23d, at the age of forty-seven. Professor LEON was secretary of the Astronomical Society of Mexico, and the editor of the *Bulletin* of the society. Through his intense enthusiasm and zeal he did a great deal to stimulate popular interest in astronomy in Mexico, and his death is a severe loss to the Mexican Astronomical Society, of which he was the founder.

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*Observatories and Cities.*—Modern astronomical research work, which necessitates the long exposure of photographic plates and the observation of faint stars, is gradually separating old observatories from their historic surroundings and creating new buildings in more favorable situations. The Hamburg Observatory is now settled in its new site in Bergedorf, and the new ground is bristling with domes of the latest construction. Berlin Observatory is now on the move, taking up its new position in Neu Babelsberg, not very far from its astrophysical *confrère* at Potsdam. At the present time the question is being considered as to the removal or part removal of the Paris Observatory, as the conditions on the site now occupied are not conducive to the best observational work.—(From *Nature*, June 19, 1913.)

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DR. S. A. MITCHELL, Associate Professor of Astronomy at Columbia University, has been appointed Director of the Leander McCormick Observatory at the University of Virginia, as successor to Professor ORMOND STONE, who retired two years ago on the Carnegie Foundation. Three who took their doctorates under Professor STONE are now on the Lick Observatory staff, and their best wishes go with Professor STONE in his well-earned retirement from active duties, and to Dr. MITCHELL in his new field of work. During the past year Dr. MITCHELL has been on sabbatical leave from Columbia, and has spent his time at Yerkes Observatory in spectrographic and parallax work.

*Earthquakes Versus Suffrâgettes.*—The earthquake of July 1, 1911, did practically no damage anywhere in California, except to the old brick dormitory at Mount Hamilton, and this was a building whose structural faults rendered it rather susceptible to shock. To replace the residence space in this building a fine dormitory building of reinforced concrete and two modern cottages have been built. These are now completed and the rather congested living conditions of the past two years, which have been necessary on the part of several members of the staff, are at an end. Some of our English colleagues evidently have to take precautions against upheavals of a different nature: witness the following note from *The Observatory*:—

“The Royal Observatory on Blackford Hill (Edinburgh) was entered on the night of May 20th-21st, and a bomb fired inside the building, immediately under the 24-inch reflector. The perpetrators obtained entry by smashing some panes of glass, and laid a fuse up a spiral staircase to a lumber-room just below the instrument. The explosion took place about 1 A. M. Fortunately, no serious damage was done to the instruments, the damage being mainly structural. A woman's handbag and some papers, which were left behind, leave no doubt as to the organization to which the crime must be attributed.”

A similar attempt, with rather serious results, has been made at the Gatty Marine Laboratory of St. Andrews. This laboratory has always been open to scientific workers of both sexes, but this fact did not give it immunity. Explosives and combustibles were placed in one of the work rooms on the night of June 21st. Fortunately the fire was seen by fishermen, who gave the alarm, but the large work room was wrecked and the roof ruined before the firemen obtained control of the fire.

California has now been a suffrage State for over a year, and all critics admit that it is a success. But it is to be feared that the amendment permitting woman suffrage would have failed to pass, as it has since done in Michigan, had the militants started their “campaign” a few months earlier.

It is stated in the *Times* that Mr. CAWTHORN, of Nelson, has offered to give £10,000 to £12,000, the sum required to establish a solar physics observatory in New Zealand. This, we understand, is the outcome of a visit to New Zealand by Miss PROCTOR.

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Miss SOPHIA LEVY, graduate student of the Berkeley Astronomical Department, is spending the summer at Lick Observatory as a voluntary assistant.

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Mr. CARL A. BERGMANN has been appointed an assistant on the staff of the Lick Observatory, with principal duties in photography.

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Director CAMPBELL left on July 17th to attend the Solar Conference which meets at Bonn, July 30th to August 6th, and the meeting of the Astronomische Gesellschaft at Hamburg, August 6th to 9th. He will sail for home on August 12th, arriving at Mount Hamilton on August 24th.